

## MARRIAGE LAWS NEED CORRECTION

Evidence of Normal Mind  
Should Be Required Before  
License Is Issued.

### CARE OF FEEBLE-MINDED

Startling Facts and Suggestions  
in Report of State Board  
of Charities.

Virginia needs a marriage law requiring a clean bill of health and evidence of a normal mind before a license is issued. Such is the deliberate judgment of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, expressed in its annual report to the Governor, made public yesterday. This conclusion is reached after a careful study and investigation into the number of feeble-minded and defective in this State, and the conditions surrounding their birth and their position in the community.

While this reasoning may seem rather advanced, it is the conviction of many men and women who have spent time and research to the subject that the feeble-minded and women should be so treated as to make it impossible for them to bring into the world children who will inherit their defects, and so pass them on to generations to come, a constant burden on the community and a curse to themselves.

**One Richmond Case.**  
A Richmond case covering a feeble-minded man and woman is given in point. The man has been admitted to the City Home thirteen times in the last nine years. He has secured employment, but has not the will power to retain a position. He married a woman worse mentally than himself. They left the almshouse together, and the superintendent, believing they intended to marry, telephoned the clerk of the court informing him that they were feeble-minded. Upon investigation, it was found that under the law the clerk had no authority to refuse a license. The marriage followed, and in a short time the couple returned to the almshouse in destitute circumstances. They left again and every agency for the relief of the poor in this city has been invoked in their aid.

The Police Court took up the case on a charge of vagrancy; the children were returned to the almshouse. Finally, they were found in the Capitol Square hungry, ragged, sick, and were sent back to the almshouse.

**No Adequate Care.**  
This and many startling instances of the kind are detailed in the board's report. It concludes that the almshouse is not a suitable place for feeble-minded people. It cannot give the

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necessary training, and does not provide adequate care. Its inmates are allowed to leave it at will, the feeble-minded wander over the country, fall into divers temptations, and are exposed to many dangers. Births are many. There is not a charity organization nor an eleemosynary institution in Virginia equal to the task of providing for the feeble-minded. The courts are not given authority to make provision for them.

Had the man and woman referred to been given training in a properly equipped institution with custodial care, they would have been self-supporting. The boys, by training, could be made useful, but situated as they are, they will be a burden to the State all their lives.

This one family, if they live out their allotted time, will cost the State enough to purchase the land and erect buildings for an institution for the feeble-minded.

### Should Be Segregated.

"Whatever happens to the feeble-minded, idiotic and epileptic," it is argued, "the one thing of parentage must not happen to them. The only just and humane and civilized way of stopping the transmission of defectiveness is by segregation. These people should be taken by themselves and kept in quiet, peaceful, industrial communities, where they shall have everything that other villagers enjoy except the joys and sorrows of married life and the pleasure of voting for the Governor and President. There should be safe, permanent, custodial care of all those who are so far degenerate that their unbridled natural increase would result in lowering the average quality of manhood and womanhood of the State."

It is the thing to do for the feeble-minded—get them out of the big world, where they have had such a hard time because they are not like other folks. They are ignorant and irresponsible. It is too much to ask of them that they shall be virtuous, because virtue demands strength. We must be content if we can keep them innocent."

### Should Be Self-Supporting.

Besides, it is believed that there is no reason why the majority of feeble-minded people should cost the State anything at all, after they are once trained. They are put to such employment as they can handle, under direction, such as tracking and brick-making.

It will be news to most people that two intensive studies have been made in the public schools of Richmond and

Norfolk by means of the Binet measuring school for intelligence. These show the child's mental development, graded at normal and at one, two and three years above and the same levels below. The presence of feeble-minded among these backward studies was clearly shown. At Laurel Industrial School, eight of the most backward boys were tested, and their mental age was found far below their actual age, showing that these boys, now held responsible for crimes, are distinctly feeble-minded and therefore not responsible for their acts and not criminals at all.

The report is full of such illuminating facts, gathered during the year just ended by the secretary, Dr. J. T. Mastin, with such assistance as the board has been able to give him.

**Many Are Imbeciles.**  
According to a statement recently made by Dr. Goddard, of the New Jersey School for the Feeble-Minded, one-fourth of all criminals are imbeciles. If this report is correct, there are 350 imbeciles confined in the jails of Virginia for crimes they could not help committing, and 600 others wearing stripes that mark the felon.

"One who cannot exercise prudence and foresight, and who is, therefore, destitute," says the report, "is an imbecile who deserves and should receive the sympathy and support of the State. One who can but will not exercise ordinary prudence and foresight, and who therefore becomes dependent, is a vagrant and should be forced to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. The important questions, after it has been proven that a person has committed a crime, are not: 'How shall he be punished?' 'What shall be the length of his term?' but 'Is he responsible?' 'Will he commit this crime again?' 'Will he propagate his kind?' And the greatest of these is the last."

In his letter of transmission to the Governor, Dr. George H. Denny, chairman of the board, says:

**Review by Dr. Denny.**  
"After three years of investigation and study of the work committed to us by the General Assembly, we believe that, in order to enable the State to effectively prosecute, at the least possible expenditure of money, its work for the dependent, the delinquent and the defective, classes, four reforms are indispensable: (1) Provision for the custodial care of and the prevention of procreation by the feeble-minded; (2) provision for profitable employment that will not put them in competition with honest labor; (3) the classification of drunks as diseased people instead of as criminals, and provision to give them remunerative employment with adequate medical treatment; and (4) such supervision of dependent and delinquent children as will ensure for them adequate religious instruction and adequate mental training in a faithful and moral environment."

While we are able to report," comments Dr. Denny, "that our jails and almshouses are improving, and that those in charge of them are, as a rule, faithful and honest, our duty to the Commonwealth compels us to declare that our almshouses are not, in many instances, adequately providing for the needs of the inmates, and that our jails, in general, do not adequately meet the demand of modern economic standards, or the requirements of an enlightened public conscience. The bad sanitary conditions, the idleness, the enforced evil companionship, the enormous expense, concerning which there is so much complaint, are inherent in the jail system. These evils cannot be remedied. They should be abolished."

### AROUND THE HOTELS

Senator Aubrey E. Strode and former Senator E. H. Massey, whose contest the recent primary was perhaps the most interesting local fight in the State, met by chance in the lobby of Murphy's hotel last night. Their greeting was entirely cordial. Senator Strode, who is acting as counsel for the defense in the Buchanan murder case, while Mr. Massey, now the Democratic nominee for lieutenant, had been called to Norfolk to attend a meeting of the State Commission of Fisheries.

Representative Robert Turnbull, who is now actively engaged in canvassing the Fourth District for his re-election next year, was here last night.

S. G. Proffitt, of Floyd, one of the Republican leaders in the Western part of the State, was here yesterday.

### Virginia at the Hotels.

Delegation—L. E. Hicks, Charlottesville; T. N. Burns, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Baker, Clarksville; W. R. Norwood, South Boston; H. M. Crowder, Covington; P. E. Bryant, Petersburg; D. H. Chapman, Norfolk; W. J. Sells, Elko; Charles W. Jones, Jonesboro.

Murphy's—P. P. Williamson, Norfolk; George W. Wright, Marion; H. W. Woodall, South Boston; L. E. Watts, Crews; L. R. Driver, Beaver Dam; Paul W. Garrett, Leesburg; H. S. Wilkins, Jr., Lawrenceville; R. Turnbull, Lawrenceville; W. W. Edwards, Waverly; L. W. P. Boone, Bedford; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Topham, Wytheville; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dunkum, Virginia; W. C. Underwood, Norfolk; Lester D. Dilard, Spotsylvania; John B. Blanks, Petersburg; P. F. Stewart, Clifton Forge; W. A. Lewis, Austinville; R. G. Lucas, Patterson; John Montalione, Newport News; H. E. Hall, Newport News; John Lee, Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Smith, Newport.

### Held for Stealing Shoes.

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### Promotions Made.

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### Overdose of Laudanum.

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News: C. W. Bennick, New Market; B. Bigger, Chase City; R. B. Wilson, Crews; L. B. Scott, Crews; W. E. Jennings, Virginia; S. G. Proffitt, Floyd; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. McGhee, Dillwyn.  
Park—Charles M. Black, Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wymouth, Callao; E. E. Deacon, Clifton Forge.  
Richmond—O. M. Smith, M. D. Palmyra; R. George H. Fitch, Fredericksburg; Stanley W. Martin, Lynchburg; H. M. White, Dillwyn; Mrs. F. J. Wright, F. J. Wright, Jr., and nurse, Fork Union; Mrs. E. E. Ligon and nurse, Fork Union; W. D. Norvell, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nelson, Lynchburg.  
Gloucester—M. E. Hall, Buckingham; Timothy Johnson, Alexandria; T. F. Arnall, Buena Vista; J. A. Johnson, Hot Springs; Stump's—J. V. Woodward, Norfolk; W. Gray, Virginia; S. H. Nichols, Norfolk; George H. Appleton, Virginia; M. D. Leekie, Roanoke; K. A. Fernstrom, Victoria; George Patis, Jacksonville; J. A. Banks, Victoria; M. W. McCreary, Staunton; J. Desmond, Lynchburg; E. K. Mercereau, Staunton; S. V. Southall, Jr., Emporia; W. E. Hubard, Backus; R. N. Turner, Gloucester; W. H. Martin, Lynchburg.

### LOSERS BRIDE'S TROUSERS.

Jeff Davis forgot to check her trunk at Salt Lake City.

Los Angeles, October 23.—The bride of United States Senator Jeff Davis has solved the mystery of how to be happy without a trunk. In the middle of their honeymoon couple that a trunk containing the new Mrs. Davis' trousers and a pair of new shoes, and all kinds of new honeymoon clothes, was probably lost.

Gilbert, a groomed when she missed the trunk, but now is smiling. Senator Davis, who was his own fault. He forgot to check the trunk at Salt Lake City.

A campaign for the re-election of Senator Davis is at its height in Arkansas, but the Senator himself says he has no intention of running. "Why, I don't have to be there; I'm going to win, anyway, and I want to get married. What is politics compared to a wife?"

### Knife Led to Charge.

James Austin, colored, was arrested yesterday on a charge of breaking into the store of Pledge Regal, 150 West Marshall Street, and stealing therefrom a quantity of groceries and a knife. Regal was in doubt as to who the criminal was until he discovered it. It is alleged that Austin was carrying the stolen knife with him.

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## DR. ANNA H. SHAW AGAIN IS ELECTED

Unanimous Action of Suffragists Follows Several Sharp Struggles.

### OTHER OFFICERS CHOSEN

Question of Proposed Transfer of Headquarters Postponed Indefinitely.

Louisville, Ky., October 23.—After half a day of womanly turmoil, in which the female temper and legislative capabilities of Miss Anna Howard Shaw, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, of Moylan, Pa., president since 1905 of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in convention here, was re-elected late this afternoon unanimously. Second choice went to Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago.

Dr. Shaw's election followed several sharp struggles in which the Eastern division of the suffragists clashed with those representing the other sections of the country. Most of these clashes had to do with a projected transferring of the national headquarters from New York to Chicago, a plan which others than Easterners to the storm centre of American suffrage work. The non-Eastern division had been severely torn between their abounding love for and belief in Miss Shaw, who had let it be known she could continue as president only if New York retained the headquarters. Miss Shaw's re-election is believed to have settled or postponed definite decision on this question for a year at least.

Miss Shaw pledged "every power of body, mind and heart" to the work, asked for suggestions from any suffragist and referred feelingly to the diamond starved suffrage flag, passed on to her after the death of Susan B. Anthony.

### Other Officers.

The other officers elected to serve for the year are as follows: Second Vice-President, Miss Anna Howard Shaw, of Moylan, Pa.; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Susan W. Fitzgerald, Boston; Treasurer, Miss Jessie Ashley, New York; First Auditor, Mrs. Belle La Follette, Madison, Wis.; Second Auditor, Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, New York; and James Lees Laidlaw, New York. It was a section of the revised constitution, which provided for monthly meetings of the official board, composed of national officers, that occasioned numerous sharp exchanges. The section, amended so as to call for meetings of the board at least once in every two months, finally was adopted. Inasmuch as the question involved the proposed headquarters

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(Signed) M. L. GERHARDT.

Eckman's Alternative is effective in Bronchitis, Asthma, Hay Fever, Throat and Lung Troubles, and in upbuilding the system. Does not contain poisons, opiates or minor drug compounds, and other leading druggists. Ask for booklet of cured cases and write to Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa., for additional evidence.

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You will find all the latest novelties. A visit to this department will convince you of the great variety we are showing.

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Big line to select from. All grades; all colors.

Odd Size Rugs Our Specialty.

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## Children Cry for Fletcher's

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## GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

*Charles H. Fletcher*

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transfer, and possibly the choice of officers, it provoked heated debate, some of the delegates getting almost personal. Most of the debate followed an announcement by Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College, that three women had offered to supply expense money to defray traveling expenses of officers going to the bi-monthly board meeting. "Evidently mistaking the point, one delegate intimated criticism of the administration by national officers of what has been known as the Susan B. Anthony \$50,000 fund. Several rose at once to protest, but Miss Shaw recognized the error, ex-cathedra, refuted the insinuation of injudicious use of the money, and, with tears in her eyes, explained the circumstances in detail.

### OBITUARY

**W. Y. Gay.**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Weldon N. C., October 23.—W. Y. Gay, Chief of Police of Weldon, died at 5 o'clock to-day of paralysis, aged sixty-three years.

**Mrs. S. N. Honaker.**  
Abingdon, Va., October 23.—A telegram announced the death in Waynesboro, N. C., of Mrs. S. N. Honaker, of this place. Mrs. Honaker's body will be brought here to-morrow for interment. She was visiting her daughter, Mrs. S. N. Jones, at the time of her death. Other children are Martin H. Honaker and A. C. Honaker, of this place; S. N. Honaker, of Tampa, Fla.; Pleasant Honaker, of Shreveport, La.; Mrs. Frank Steffner and Lillie Moreast, of Chattanooga.

### Horace L. Ball.

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